

## REMARKS

In the Official Action, claims 1-19 were substantively considered and of these, claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12-15 and 17-19 were allowed, whereas claims 1, 8, 11 and 16 were objected to. The claim objections are related to objections the examiner raised with respect to the drawings, arising from an apparent inconsistency between the drawings (which do not show a bottom wall of the keyway) and the claims, (which recited a bottom wall in the keyway). Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, 11 and 16 for consistency with the drawings and conventional cylinder locks, wherein the keyway has an open bottom.

Applicant has voluntarily amended the second recited element in claims 8 and 11, to delete the phrase to the effect that the core outer surface is "imperforate" at the zero degree position.

Applicant refers the examiner to the first two paragraphs of the Description of the Preferred Embodiment, where it is clear that the present invention provides an additional level of coding associated with a conventional cylinder lock, and that one of ordinary skill in the art is very familiar with the way in which the bits on the top edge of the key blade cooperate with the tumblers arranged between the shell and core to provide the locking and unlocking functionality. Furthermore, one aspect of the invention as described with respect to Figure 6, clearly presumes that the key insertable in the keyway has bitting on the top edge as per a conventional cylinder lock (page 9 line 25).

For purposes of explaining the operation of the present invention, the bores and tumblers associated with the core of the conventional lock are not shown in the drawings, but even if the tumblers had been shown therein, the surface of the core at the zero degree position with a properly bitted key in the keyway would indeed be imperforate because of the clear shear line. This is well understood, as exemplified by Figs. 2A and 3A of U.S. Patent No. 5,970,761 of record in applicant's IDS.)

Applicant has directed the amendment of the specification on page 3, to delete the phrase regarding the imperforate condition at the zero degree position, for consistency with the amendments of claims 8 and 11.

Given that one (a) of ordinary skill would realize that the present invention is an improvement to and would carry over the essential locking technique of a conventional cylinder lock, (b) at least two allowable independent claims (1 and 16) do not recite this "imperforate" language, and (c) the phrase was merely intended to represent that for applicant's invention to provide supplementary coding when the key is in the lock the core must be rotatable within the shell (i.e., a clear shear line) at the zero degree position, applicant submits that the deletion of this recitation in the claims improves clarity, without introducing new matter or raising new issues for consideration.

Applicant hereby also affirms the withdrawal of claims 20-24 from further consideration in this application, without prejudice to the right to pursue these claims in a divisional or similar application under 35 U.S.C. §120 and 121.

Respectfully submitted,  
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